

MEMORANDUM

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AUG 2, 1968

TO : PNTL via PNTL, President
FROM : PNL ASST via CRC
SUBJECT: Packages for Missing Employees

DATE: 18 June 1968

REF. No. PNL-PA-68/2575

REF : 1. CML-66-017H of 11 January 1966
2. CML-65-017H of 8 February 1965
3. CML-64-093H of 14 September 1964

In the past attempts were made to ascertain information concerning the status of employees presumed still detained by Pathet Lao forces. Furthermore, the Company attempted to deliver packages containing food and medicine for these employees to the Pathet Lao via an intermediary.

This program of ascertaining information on the status of our employees and delivering relief packages to them should continue on a regular basis.

Information to be obtained, if possible, relating to our employees should include health, location, and any other pertinent information concerning their welfare.

Employees presumed still detained by the Pathet Lao are Eugene M. DeBruin, American; Yik Chiu To, HongKong Chinese; Prasit Promsuan, Thai; Prasidhi Thanee, Thai, all of whom were captured in September 1963, Ceferino B. Mabung, Filipino, who was captured on or about December 16, 1960 at Vientiane, and Ampol Chan-Aium, Thai, missing since December 25, 1967 when L61 was overrun by unfriendly forces.

Previously, small packages were prepared each containing the same basic items and individually addressed to the employees. To help put together these packages attached are inventories of prior parcels. Each box or bottle of medicine in the packages was labeled as to use and dosage. Expenses incurred for providing the contents of the packages should be for Company account.

It appears in the past most of our efforts to deliver the packages and ascertain information concerning the status of our employees have employed the facilities of the Political Section, U. S. Embassy, Vientiane, who acted as an intermediary between the Company and the Pathet Lao. However, this does not preclude enlisting the aid of the International Red Cross or the International Control Commission as well. Any one or all of these organizations may be able to offer their assistance not only to act as an intermediary but also perhaps one of their representatives could be allowed access to the prisoners and see firsthand their condition. Furthermore, if the latter cannot be accomplished perhaps the representatives of the agencies specified can persuade the Pathet Lao to permit the prisoners to write letters to their families. All possibilities concerning the welfare of our employees should continue to be explored even in regards to their release.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 12-Aug-2011

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We suggest that you consult with the specified agencies so that they may contact the Pathet Lao in order to determine whether they will accept packages for our missing employees and attempt to ascertain information relating to their status. Based on the outcome of these negotiations packages should be prepared and delivered to the agency for transference to the Pathet Lao.

Please keep us advised of your efforts with the agencies and whether any packages were or will be delivered. If so, by whom, when, and what did they consist of?

Stuart Nicman

cc: B/150 File
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